and Kerala. In regard to the proposal for Nallathanny in Kerala, additional information sought from Kerala State Electricity Board is yet to be provided. The other two proposals for Gude-Panchagani in Maharashtra and Singanamala in Andhra Pradesh will be considered after confirmation is received that the concerned States will contribute their 40% share of the cost of the projects.

Space Technology

843. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the space technology developed in the country has helped in increasing food production by identifying soil salinity and also in afforestation of denuded forest area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for maximum utilisation of space technology for the above purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Remote Sensing Satellites have helped in identifying the spatial distribution of land affected by soil salinity/alkalinity in the country. The Centres of Department of Space such as Space Applications Centre, National Remote Sensing Agency and Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre as well as the other Institutions like National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning and All India Soil and Land Use Survey Organisation besides State Remote Sensing Centres and State Soil Survey Departments have carried out mapping of salt-affected soils in the country. It has been observed that 19.88 lakh ha is affected by salinity/alkalinity. This information is being used for planning and implementation of reclamation programmes by the concerned Centre and State Departments.

Satellite-based surveys have also identified degraded forest lands of 16.27 m ha for taking up afforestation programme in these areas.

(c) The spatial information providing the details related to soil salinity/alkalinity have already been made available to concerned Ministries/Agencies involved in reclamation. Satellite based survey on monitoring the progress of reclamation measures in salt affected areas and preparation of training manuals illustrating the uses of maps have already started. Also, Department of Space is planning to launch higher resolution mulitspectral satellites in the coming years to identify microlevel details for generating locals specific action plans in ensuring appropriate land reclamation and afforestation measures.

New Power Projects

844. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India has drawn up some ambitious plan to set up new power projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any such project has been planned by the Power Grid Corporation to set up power projects in Rajasthan;

(d) if so, the estimated cost and capacity thereof; and

(e) the stage at which these projects are pending at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). Powergrid Corporation of India has plans to construct a number of important transmission lines and sub-stations for establishing inter-regional links to facilitate transfer of power within the region and from one region to other region. The important projects are as under :

1. Load Despatch & Communication - North Eastern Region.
2. Load Despatch & Communication - Eastern Region.
3. Load Despatch & Communication - Western Region.
4. East-North HVDC Interconnector.
5. East-West Inter-regional link.
6. Rihand Transmission Line.
7. Unchahar Transmission Line.
8. Faridabad CCGBP Transmission Line.
9. Kayamkulam Transmission Line.
10. Rananadi-Along Transmission Line.
11. Talcher-II Transmission Line.
12. Dhauliganga Transmission Line.

(c) Powergrid already has a transmission network in Rajasthan comprising of 400 KV lines emanating/terminating at Jaipur (Bassi) Sub-station. Further, powergrid has plans to construct transmission system to evacuate power from RAPP-B power projects.

(d) and (e). The details of the lines under construction are as under :

	Cap.	Length (Ckt Km)	Compln. Target
RAPP-B-Chittorgarh D/C	220 KV	260	May, 1998
RAPP-B-Udaipur S/C	220 KV	226	May, 1998
RAPP-B-Anta S/C	200 KV	110	May, 1998

The approximate cost of the above is Rs 116 crores